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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001
Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

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Submitter Information

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General Comment

I grew up in the Chesapeake Bay watershed near its beginning where the Susquehanna River comes by Havre de Grace. I ate blue crabs nearly every summer. My AP Biology class explored its upper marshes in canoes. I attended college at St. Mary's City and learned to sail on the St. Mary's River near where it flows into the bay. As a teacher, I taught my students about the history of Maryland and the essential role the Bay played in the growth of our state. Though I now live on the other coast, the Bay holds a special place in my heart, and now it needs your help. For more than 25 years, scientists have documented the damaging levels of pollution that drain into Bay rivers and streams, leaving many waters unfit for swimming or fishing and depleting once abundant shellfish populations.

The draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a strong step in the right direction. It sets clear pollution limits, deadlines and consequences for failure that would ensure that the job gets done. It would allow states the flexibility to determine how best to achieve results, tap market efficiencies to save businesses and taxpayers money, and provide support and guidance to states and localities to help them make on-the-ground progress.

The Chesapeake Bay can't afford more excuses and delay. I urge you to finalize a strong, accountable final TMDL, and to continue working with the states to ensure that their plans will deliver much-needed results. I'd love to know that my children could plan on visiting the Bay, eating blue crabs, and sailing on its waters well into the future.